

Application No 09/813,905

Reply to Examiner's telephone call and fax of August 11, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, new paragraph [00018.5] has been added after paragraph [00018] to describe FIG 2B.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 13 and 14.

Claims 1 – 8, 17, 18, 23, 26, 30, 31 and 32 have been canceled.

As to Claims 9, 10, 11 and 12, Applicants have amended they to make them independent.

As to Claim 15, Applicants have amended said claim by placing all of its multiple claim parts independent form to create amended claim 15 and new claim 33.

In addition, as to claims 9 and 33, Applicants have further amended said claims to incorporate the language that "of half circle or crescent shape" as the Examiner suggested.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this Case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Claim 9 (amended) A percutaneously insertable intra-aortic balloon catheter comprising a catheter tube, a balloon membrane, a tip, and a gas lumen insert of half circle or crescent shape, said catheter tube comprising an inner tube portion, defining an inner lumen, and an outer tube portion defining a gas lumen, a distal portion of said inner tube portion extending beyond a distal end of the outer tube portion and being connected to a distal end of the balloon membrane and to the tip, the gas lumen insert comprising a removable elongated body at least partially disposed within the gas lumen, wherein the distal portion of the inner tube portion is made from a different material than the portion of the inner tube portion disposed within an outer surface of the catheter outer tube portion.

Claim 12 (amended) A percutaneously insertable intra-aortic balloon catheter comprising an outer tube, an inner tube, a balloon membrane, a tip, and a gas lumen insert, said inner tube being disposed within the outer tube, a distal portion of said inner tube extending beyond a distal end of the outer tube and being connected to a distal end of the balloon membrane and the tip, the gas lumen insert comprising a removable elongate body at least partially disposed within the gas lumen, wherein the distal portion of the inner tube is made from a different material than the portion of the inner tube disposed within an outer surface of the catheter, and wherein the distal portion of the inner tube portion and a distal end of the catheter are connected at a joint, the gas lumen insert extends beyond the distal end of the outer tube and overlaps the joint.